4. Plan of Address.—Addressing, as I do, the Assembly for the first time, I propose to take stock of the administration and to outline roughly the future policy and in doing this I shall incidentally mention what has been done in these directions since I took charge about eight months ago. Travancore has been fortunate in the possession of an uninterrupted succession of able Dewans, and I need hardly say that each one of them has, in his time, contributed his share to the improvement of the administration of the State. Yet it is only a truism to state that, but for the rare foresight and the ripe wisdom of His Highness the Maha Raja, the marvellous co-ordination of the beneficent activities of the several Dewans, whose ideals and view-points must necessarily differ, would have been utterly impossible, and the State would not have been able to achieve that steady progress which is its proud possession to-day. It is therefore in a spirit of reverential humility that I attempt to make a survey of the present situation, and with the help of the fresh experiences we have learnt from the momentous changes in ideals and outlook on life that are so rapidly taking place around us, examine the various problems that confront us for solution and endeavour to solve them in a manner suited to modern conditions and requirements.

5. Subjects of Survey.—The domain of administrative activities that I now propose to survey may be conveniently grouped under the following four main heads, *viz.*, (1) the development of the resources of the State and the promotion of the material and moral well-being of the people; (2) the enhancement of the efficiency of the administration; (3) the satisfaction of the civic, political and social aspirations of the people and the removal of inequalities of opportunities for self-advancement among them; and (4) the improvement of the finances of the State.

DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES AND PROMOTION OF MATERIAL AND MORAL WELL-BEING.

6. Assignment of Land.—Agriculture is and must remain for a long time to come the staple industry of Travancore, as of the rest of India. It follows then that the paramount duty of the State is to promote this industry on the right lines and by every means in its power. Agricultural prosperity depends as much on a well-designed scheme of land-assignment calculated to bring about an equitable distribution of agrarian holdings, as on the regularity of the seasons or the efficiency of the measures calculated to increase the output or minimise the dangers arising from floods and other visitations. It is with a view to achieving this object that the revision of the rules regarding the assignment of lands has been taken in hand by me, and the revised rules, in their draft stage, have been published for the criticism of the public. It is also with the same object that the Land Assignment Bill has been introduced in the Legislative Council. Government are not unaware of the adverse criticisms that have been directed against the draft Puduval Rules or of the still stronger opposition to which the draft Land Assignment Bill has been subjected, but Government would venture to state that a good deal of this criticism and opposition is based on an erroneous understanding of the subject and that nothing is farther from the intention of the Government than the creation of facilities to the outsider for the exploitation of land in Travancore or the erection of legal barriers against the reasonable remedies obtainable by the private citizen against the wanton misuse of the powers vested in revenue officials. In emphasising the policy of sale of lands for value in conveniently small blocks, by public auction or otherwise, Government are only following a procedure that has the sanction of long standing usage in this as well as in the neighbouring State of Cochin, and the main object which Government have in view in promulgating the two new measures is the protection of the ignorant ryot from the wily exploiter and the unscrupulous capitalist and to bring him on his feet, for the ultimate benefit of the country, of the industrious dependant and the unfortunate landless. Government hope to issue these measures in their final form with the necessary modifications, after a careful consideration of the several objections raised against them.

7. Land Records.—In an attempt to improve the conditions of agricultural industry, a proper system of survey and land records is only a matter of comparatively a short period of years.

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to a well-regulated procedure in regard to land assignment. Although in the past the whole State has undergone a survey and a portion of it has even been resurveyed, and although a system of land records maintenance was introduced some years back, the survey is now found to be very imperfect and often erroneous and quite out of date and the maintenance of land records is an altogether neglected chapter in the administrative history of the State. In very many cases demarcation stones only exist in name and where they do really exist they rarely conform to proper description and size and are seldom in the right places and the State and the private citizen do not know their respective limits. Lands whose reservation for communal purposes has received the sanction of Government have been freely encroached upon, and vast areas of land not yet assigned are either in the enjoyment of private individuals or are not found in the lists of lands recognised to be available for assignment. To rectify this state of affairs which is alike unsatisfactory to the ryot and detrimental to governmental revenues and communal interests and which is very largely the result of the ignorance of survey on the part of responsible revenue officers and the absence of method and organisation in the work of the expert survey officers, measures have been adopted for imparting a working knowledge of survey and maintenance of land records to a body of young men selected from the services for their good work and good educational qualifications and for sending them to the taluks to rectify errors in survey, clear all arrears in sub-division work, relieve the Tahsildars of the largely routine, though very important, work of effecting *pokkuvaravu* (patta transfer) and give them all the local help required for the right disposal of land. These officers will also detect all encroachments on communal *porambokes* and other Government lands and take the necessary steps for having them registered, if such registry is unobjectionable, or vacated if the occupations on them are objectionable. These responsible and trained officers, who have been styled Assistant Tahsildars, will thus relieve Tahsildars of a substantial share of their work and enable the latter to devote their attention better to their other multifarious duties and they will prepare the ground in a couple of years for the conduct of the resettlement which is already overdue in some taluks and is very necessary for the removal of the existing glaring inequalities in the incidence of assessment and the simplification of the highly complex system of land tenures now prevalent in the country. The first batch of these officers has already been trained and fifteen of them have been posted to a corresponding number of taluks. The training of the second batch has just commenced. Other questions connected with land revenue reform, such as the writing up of the land revenue registers which are now very imperfect and out of date and the adoption of measures for the early automatic settlement of the land revenue demand of the year soon after its close, the translation into the vernaculars of the more important portions of the Land Revenue Manual for the convenience of the public, the adjustment of the territorial limits of *pakuthies* by the bifurcation of the too unwieldy and the amalgamation of the too small, the simplification of the accounts and registers to be maintained in the *pakuthi* cutcherries, the freeing of Tahsildars from magisterial and other work to enable them to do their revenue work with undivided attention and with greater promptitude and thoroughness, are engaging the attention of Government.

8. Irrigation.—The next point that claims our attention in relation to the agriculture is irrigation. It is common knowledge that there is no unlimited scope for the extension of irrigation in Travancore. The only possible irrigation scheme of considerable magnitude, *viz.*, the Kodayar Project, has already been completed. It is however, a matter for regret that the ryots who own lands commanded by the State channels have been very slow in availing themselves of the benefits of the scheme and that there are over 10,000 acres of land still remaining to be converted. It is possible to remove the obstacles that might lie in the way of the conversion of lands and to go to the ryots to afford encouragement, both by advice and money advances, to enable them to go ahead in the work of conversion, and to take effective steps for the acquisition of waste, and lands required for communal purposes—a matter lost sight of in the past—necessitates the appointment of a special officer, possessing adequate local knowledge, has been appointed, and much good will result from his labours. The only other irrigation project of any magnitude is the one known as the Atirapalli Project across the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Chalakudi river, which is intended to irrigate about 2,000 acres of land in Travancore and which has to be carried out with the concurrence of and in conjunction with the Cochin Government. It may interest you to learn that both the Governments are now engaged in examining this project. Nor have the Government forgotten the minor irrigation tanks which form a special feature of the taluks of Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara. I recently inspected some of those tanks and I have proposed a scheme for their restoration at the joint cost of the Government and the ryot. Briefly put, the scheme is that Government should restore the tanks solely at their cost in the first instance and recover three-fourths of such cost from the ryots interested in easy instalments and that all this should be done in the course of half a dozen years, by ear-marking a definite sum yearly for the purpose. The further progress of the scheme will depend upon the response the ryots make to this proposal.

9. Development Departments.—Agriculture.—We now come to a consideration of the Development Departments, under which head we may suitably bring Co-operation, Agriculture with Fisheries, and Industries with Technical and Commercial Education. The Departments of Geology, Exise and Forests without whose help the development departments mentioned above cannot obtain much of the raw material required for their working, will also be simultaneously considered. The first thing that strikes one on an examination of the condition of these departments is the utter lack of co-ordination and correlation among them. Each of these departments has so far failed to make use of the help that can be rendered or the comparative experience that can be afforded by the others, and team work of the right sort, on which the cumulative success of these departments so largely depends, is conspicuous by its absence. Even the scientific equipment in men and material such as laboratories, staff of analysts, etc., are separate for each department, with the result that the equipment in every case is much below the mark while it could be brought up to the mark were it common to all the departments. The heads of these departments seldom meet and confer or consult. The only development department that has made some headway is that of Agriculture, and even here there is considerable room for improvement in the work of demonstration and propaganda as in scientific research. Only the fringe of many vital problems has been touched, and a good deal of spade work has still to be done before the foundations of the department can be said to be truly laid. No serious attempt has hitherto been made to tackle the problem of the industries subsidiary to agriculture and fisheries, and the want of capital and co-operative spirit which is so essential for the development of these industries, has not yet been remedied. I should not be taken as underestimating the results of the work the Agricultural Department has achieved so far. With the limited funds and staff placed at his disposal the Director has done a good deal, especially in the directions of popularising scientific manures, demonstrating on ryots' lands, combating pests, carrying on research and analysing soils. He is just now engaged in tackling the problems of punja cultivation with the help of the motor plough, of opening new demonstrational farms, of improving the local breeds of cattle by importing sires of better milking strains and greater capacity for work, and of popularising fish curing and fish oil industries. Finally, he has been endeavouring to popularise with a certain amount of success the cultivation of the mulberry and the rearing of the silkworm, and the Government have recently sanctioned his proposal to ear-mark some blocks of land in the Nedumangad taluk for assignment to silkworm rearers. When he secures the help of a properly qualified executive assistant whose appointment has been recently sanctioned, he will no doubt be able to add to the efficiency of his department. But the work that still remains to be done to bring the industry up to its level in advanced countries and make Travancore less dependent on imported food is far greater in magnitude than what has already been achieved. In this connection, I may state that the value of Government loans for agricultural improvements is little understood and that although a Regulation on the subject exists no rules have been framed to give practical effect to it. The necessary rules and table of equated repayments are under preparation.

10. Industries.—The Department of Industries is comparatively far younger, having been brought into existence only about a couple of years ago, and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

it is premature now to pronounce a verdict on its work. It cannot, however, be ignored that a policy of drift has been the standing feature of this department hitherto. Although certain very useful things have been done, such as the deputation of four scholars to Europe for equipment in different branches of industrial knowledge and the entertainment of certain officers who have had training in special industries like oil distillation, shellac manufacture, etc., the services of the latter have not been utilised to the best advantage of the State, and not one of these officers can claim to have laid the foundations of a new industry or to have popularised improvements in an existing industry. The foregoing criticism applies to cottage industries in particular, but, even in the case of industries on factory scale, the Director of Industries has not yet been in a position to place before the Government information on the strength of which a definite decision can be taken in respect any of them. Government have reasons to believe that the industrial resources of the country are great and that there are natural facilities for establishing chemical industries like those of margarine and soap, matches and pencils, wood distillation and sugar refining, pharmaceutical and alcoholic preparations, marine industries like fish oil, fish manures and shell work, agricultural industries like coir and fibre, and forest industries like essential oil extraction and paper pulp manufacture. The question of making the department more useful to the public is engaging the earnest attention of Government. An Industrial Exhibition was held in Trivandrum on the 26th October 1920 and the following days, in connection with the visit Their Excellencies the Governor of Madras and Lady Willingdon paid in kind response to the invitation of His Highness the Maha Raja, and the exhibition was a great eye-opener in regard to the immense industrial possibilities of the State.

11. Technical Education.—Closely allied with the question of industrial development is that of industrial and technical education. This subject has received attention in recent years and the Sri Mulam Technical School opened recently at Trivandrum is a model of its kind. A standard of general education is strictly insisted on for admission to the school, which has a fully qualified staff of teachers; the curriculum is suitable and the pupils receive excellent practical training in the P. W. D. Workshop close by, but the same cannot be said of the few other governmental technical institutions in the State. A school at Nagercoil for the teaching of weaving and one at Quilon for the teaching of carpentry and smithery have existed for some time past, but neither of them has been doing well, both being ill-equipped and ill-supervised by the Education Department under which they have been working. Admissions to both were haphazard and the lines of work were quite confused. Without any attempt at improving the existing schools, another institution for weaving was started last year by the Director of Industries at Eraniel close to Nagercoil, and that institution had no pretence even to the name of a school, but was called a depot and took in only adults. The Eraniel depot has now been abolished and the Nagercoil institute placed on a sounder footing and transferred to the Department of Industries. The Quilon carpentry school will soon be abolished as not serving any useful purpose. In addition to maintaining these State-managed schools Government have been giving grants to a large number of private schools which profess to impart instruction in weaving, lace-work, coir-making and other industries. No clearly defined policy, however, has hitherto been laid down in regard to the curricula or equipment of these institutions and some of them do not fulfil the conditions attached to the grant of State aid and are run as profit-making concerns. It is the object of Government to bring these institutions under effective control and to make the grant dependent on their fulfilling their real purpose. There must also be a considerable addition to the numerical strength of technical schools and a judicious distribution of them over the whole State so as to provide full facilities for giving suitable vocational training to the youth of the country. The ideal to be kept in view is the provision of adequate facilities for such training for the large majority of school boys of limited means in whose case stopping with the fourth year's course in a vernacular school and learning a vocation that will enable them to earn an independent livelihood are far better than pursuing a further literary course aimlessly and to the great detriment of their slender resources and physical health. The problem is one of vast magnitude and great complexity and it has already been examined in a

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

general way by the Committee appointed some time ago to revise the curricula of studies in vernacular schools for boys, and it will have to be closely examined with the help of official and non-official advice before any definite decisions can be arrived at. You may, however, rest assured that Government are keenly alive to the immense importance of industrial and technical education as a factor in the material uplift of the youth of this country.

12. Commercial Instruction.—Connected with the question of technical education is that of imparting instruction in such subjects as commercial correspondence, book-keeping and accountancy. It will be recognised that a large demand has been created for the services of men trained in such subjects by the revival of business and the rapid extension of the joint stock movement, and it is but right that the State should help the movement by creating facilities for the requisite training. With a view to decide the lines on which action should be taken in this direction, I propose to hold a conference of commercial gentlemen at Alleppey at an early date, and I may tell you that the occasion of that conference will also be utilised for the ascertainment of local non-official opinion on the more important industrial problems that are awaiting solution.

13. Banking.—The question of increasing banking facilities which are so essential for the promotion of industries and trade is also engaging the serious attention of Government. They are aware that private enterprise has not been inactive in the matter of creating such facilities ; but it is the duty of the State to stabilise this enterprise by the exercise of close and effective supervision. It is with this view that the hands of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies have been recently strengthened by the appointment of an auditor. There is a vague expectation that the State should help every private banking concern with funds. It will afford Government no small pleasure to encourage a really good banking concern with a deposit, but it is idle to expect the State to risk public money in investments with banks of doubtful solvency. It is also open to doubt whether the limited encouragement the Government could afford in this direction would adequately meet the growing needs of commerce for money. A far better way of accomplishing this object would be to help the creation, if possible, of a State-aided bank of sufficient magnitude under satisfactory guarantees, and it is with a view to come to a decision in this matter that orders have been recently issued deputing one of the Assistant Account Officers of the State to Baroda and Mysore to acquaint himself with the working of similar banks in those States and submit his recommendations. Government feel that they should avail themselves of this opportunity to impress on the public the undesirability of starting, as has largely been the case recently, banks with a large nominal capital, but with a very low paid-up capital. Such banks can really be of no use to the country as they can neither win public confidence nor attract working capital in any appreciable measure. Government note in passing that this defect and the allied defect of insufficient reserves are the marked features of co-operative banking also in this country.

14. Co-operation.—I have already made a passing reference to the activities of the Co-operative Department with reference to agriculture, and I must say now that this department has not yet exhibited much vitality nor has it made appreciable headway among the classes of the people whom it can most benefit. Its financial basis is not sound, and its operations, which are very limited, are practically confined to credit. The only central society in the State, *viz.*, the Trivandrum Co-operative Bank, has been very slack in recovering its loans and in building up an adequate reserve. The movement has not been conducted on approved lines, and it has so far had little more than a haphazard existence. A considerable amount of spade work is essential, and the lines of operation and development most suited to the country remained to be chalked out. If co-operation is to serve the best interests of the country, it should stimulate production, bring about the development of cottage industries, both agricultural and non-agricultural, and succeed in eliminating the middleman. These objects cannot be achieved without a thorough co-ordination of the activities of this department with those of agriculture and industries. The present Registrar of Co-operative Societies is handicapped by his lack of practical training

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

in co-operative work, while the system of recruiting inspectors, who form the backbone of the department, cannot be considered free from defect. The work that lies ahead for the department is difficult and complicated, and Government are giving their most careful consideration to the whole question.

15. Geology.—The Department of Geology is an indispensable handmaid to the Department of Industries, and more especially so in a country like Travancore, which is believed to have vast potential mineral resources. This department, although manned by an expert whose knowledge of Geology and applied Chemistry is up-to-date, has not been working on economic lines, and has been rendering but little contribution to the acceleration of industrial expansion in the State. Government have recently issued instructions to the State Geologist to change his methods of work, and instead of confining himself to scientific research, to supplement it by an examination of the chief mineral resources of economic value, and to submit practical proposals for the industrial utilisation of such resources. The staff of the Geologist will be so strengthened as to enable him to carry out this work side by side with the conduct of scientific research.

16. Excise.—I do not propose to detain you long on the subject of Excise. This Department, as I have already said, did exceedingly well under Mr. N. Raman Pillai, the late Commissioner, and is run on approved lines, and no radical changes appear to be called for in the methods of its work. A great deal has already been done to give an impetus to the manufacture of home salt, and about 150 acres of land have recently been added to the salt-producing area of the State. Nothing appreciable, however, has been done to prevent the deterioration of the existing salt pans as a result of the percolation of water from the Kodayar channels. This question has now been taken up for solution by the Government and orders have been issued for the execution of the works necessary for keeping off such water from the salt pans.

17. Arrack and Molasses.—There is one direction in which Government propose to co-ordinate the work of the Excise Department with that of the Department of Industries. This consists in the introduction of a change in the method of arrack distillation in the Government distilleries and especially in the one at Nagercoil. Government are anxious that the very considerable quantities of sugar-cane and palmyra jaggery available in the country should be utilised locally in the manufacture of sugar, and that the distilleries should distil arrack from the waste molasses obtained in the sugar-refining process, in lieu of the present wasteful method of distilling it direct from jaggery. With a view to accomplish this object, Government are inducing capitalists to start a State-aided sugar-refinery, the molasses from which may be taken over by the Government distilleries.

18. Forests.—The Forest Department is one of the major departments of the State, and its activities proceed on well-regulated and well-recognised lines. No important changes are therefore necessary in the matter of its administration. One or two defects, such as the sale of timber-growth by coupes, which were the features of the administration of this department by his predecessor in office, have already been rectified by the present Conservator. The contribution by the Forest Department to the State exchequer which averages Rs. 15 lakhs a year cannot, however, be said to be adequate when the richness and the vastness of our forest area are considered, and the direction in which future action is clearly called for is the utilisation, to greater effect, of the economic resources of the forests and the adoption of methods of accelerating natural regeneration, including the replacement of forest products extracted for economic purposes. In other words, an economic survey of our forests has become a matter of imperative necessity, and such survey, in order to be useful, must be undertaken by a forest economist of proved ability and experience. Having ascertained the economic value of the several forest products together with the extent of their available supply, it will be the turn for the Forest Utilisation Officer to suggest measures for the conversion of those products into marketable articles, and the Sylviculturist will have to suggest measures for the recuperation of the exploited forests. The Madras Government and the State of Mysore have been for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

some time past conducting operations on these lines, and it is time that Travancore, so fortunately situated in the possession of its forest wealth, followed suit. Government are anxiously considering the best method of approaching the problem.

19. Public Works.—A well-organised and efficient Department of Public Works has always been one of the praiseworthy features of the administration of Travancore. It is, however, a matter for regret that, owing to the financial stringency experienced by the State as a result of the war, Government were unable in recent years to utilise the services of the department to the maximum advantage. The pre-war allotment of about Rs. 37 lakhs a year under the head of public works had to be reduced by about Rs. 10 lakhs a year during the period of the war. It should now be the chief aim of the Government to provide an adequate allotment for expenditure on public works, especially water-ways and roads, which contribute so materially to the comfort and convenience of the public and facilitate the transport of commodities. During 1095, the expenditure under Public Works was allowed to go up to nearly Rs. 33 lakhs, and during the current year, special grants to the extent of nearly Rs. 3 lakhs have already been sanctioned over and above the budgetted provision of Rs. 32 lakhs, on such highly useful works as the Shertallay and Tiruvalla canals and special repairs to certain important roads. The Chief Engineer thinks that, in view of the general all-round increase in the cost of labour and material, his department will not be able to carry out as much work as was done in the past without a budget allotment of Rs. 40 lakhs per annum. Many of the taluks in Central and North Travancore are still lacking in good roads, while the opening up of the High Range Division with its immense possibilities of economic development and the profitable extraction of valuable timber from State forests are considerably retarded by the absence of adequate communications. While on this topic, Government have very great pleasure in expressing their appreciation of the co-operation extended to them by the people in certain parts of the State in the matter of opening up new communications and maintaining old ones. To cite only one instance, the Kallupara Swadesabhivardhini Sangham has constructed some fifty miles of road in the course of the last few years. What the Sangham has done is to give the land free and execute earthwork, leaving the State to carry out the necessary masonry work and give the finishing touches to the roads. Again, people who live in villages connected by minor roads with main roads have come forward with proposals to maintain the former, subject to the grant of a subsidy from Government. Government realise that the maintenance of such roads can be attended to by the villagers concerned far more cheaply and efficiently than the Public Works Department which has to work from a distance. The Chief Engineer has been requested to give every support to these praiseworthy popular movements. Government have no doubt that the problem of [illegible] high prices and increased cost of labour can be successfully met to a degree by the transference of the execution of such works to the people on the spot.

20. Railways.—While we are on the subject of communications, it is but fitting that the question of the extension of railways should be taken up for consideration. It cannot be denied that Travancore is at present not adequately served in respect of railways. It will be of interest to you to know that the State of Baroda, with an area and revenue not much larger than ours, and with a population which is only about two-thirds of ours, has a total length of about 535 open miles of railway against the 100 miles owned by Travancore. It is needless to point out that the advent of a railway has invariably the effect of opening up and enriching the country served by it in a variety of ways, and it so happens that in Travancore the tracts not yet tapped by railways are some of the most valuable and populous in the whole State. The expansion of our railways and the creation of a State Railway Department are matters which cannot be put off very long, especially in view of the approaching development of the Cochin Port and of the fact that that port draws most of its supplies from this country. Government have accordingly decided to have a reconnaissance survey made of three lines of railways, one connecting the High Range with the Cochin Port and running throughout within Travancore territory, another connecting the same port with a convenient point on the Shencottah-Quilon line and running through the most populous tracts and important towns in that part of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

country, and the third connecting the capital with Nagercoil, the second biggest town in the State.

21. Anchal.—As you are aware, a good many reforms have recently been effected with a view to improve the working of the State postal service. Motor transport has replaced the ordinary runners' service on all the main roads and the transport of mails has been considerably expedited. The advantages of this improvement are reflected in the satisfactory increase in the number of covers and valuable articles posted and of hundies issued. Reciprocity has been introduced between Travancore and Cochin in regard to the issue of value-payable hundies. The salaries of the staff have been recently revised and improved and all possible retrenchments effected. Although certain rates of postage had to be slightly raised, care has been taken to maintain the charges at an appreciably lower level than the British Indian postage. The Anchal Superintendent is being deputed to Madras to study the working of the British postal system, both on the administrative and account sides, with a view to further improve the efficiency of his department.

22. Medical Relief.—Since the appointment of Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan as the head of the Medical Department, a great deal has been done towards improving the tone and efficiency of the department. An Assistant Surgeon has this year been deputed to England with a State scholarship for a period of two years for study in diseases and injuries to the eye. He has also been directed to undergo training in advanced surgery. Another Assistant Surgeon has proceeded on a year's study leave to specialise in diseases affecting the nose, the ear and the throat, and on his return he will be posted to the General Hospital for carrying on that branch of the work. In order to give an up-to-date training to the older officers of the department, arrangements have been made for their being transferred by turns to the General Hospital where they will work both in the in-patient and the out-patient wards and provided with opportunities, in the clinical laboratory, of studying, applying and practising the latest methods adopted in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. A new system of testing the work of officers in the mofussil has been introduced, under which every officer is obliged to furnish a running record of the treatment of each important case to the Darbar Physician, thereby enabling the latter to correct mistakes and issue timely instructions. All medical officers have been directed to give regular courses of lectures to their subordinate staff and to the public on infection, contagion, antiseptics, disinfection, and the prevention of diseases caused by germs. A Bacteriologist has been newly appointed and has been deputed to Madras and Kasauli to undergo a course of special training in pathology and bacteriology respectively. Considerable improvements and extensions to the General Hospital are in contemplation with a view to bring that institution up to the level of a modern hospital. With a view to minimise the ravages of tuberculosis, Government have sanctioned, at the instance of the Darbar Physician, the opening of a ward in each of the larger hospitals for the admission and care of the more advanced cases, and plans are maturing for the establishment, on up-to-date lines, of a sanatorium in South Travancore for the admission and treatment of all early cases. In the Leper Asylum, Trivandrum, the latest method of treatment by means of injections has been introduced with encouraging results. Two separate wards for the segregation and care of the untainted children of leper patients have been recently constructed. Orders have also issued for the amendment of the Lepers Regulation with a view to take power to compel lepers to go into the Asylum. A scheme is under contemplation for carrying on special research work in regard to the diseases peculiar to Travancore. And lastly, in view of the increasing demand for trained nurses both in hospitals and private houses, a class for the training of nurses has been opened.

23. Ayurveda.—The Department of Ayurveda has also made considerable progress since its reorganisation in 1093. During 1095, the two private Patasalas at Changankulangara in Central Travancore and Ettumanur in North Travancore were recognised as grant-in-aid institutions. The sum of Rs. 10,000 provided in the budget for that year under debt head, for the cost of the preparation of medicines in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the Ayurveda Pharmacy, had to be raised to Rs. 22,000, to meet the increased demand for Ayurvedic medicines and the larger consumption of them at the hospital. The Pharmacy and the Patasala are proposed to be strengthened by the appointment of additional hands. An Inspector of Ayurveda will also be appointed to exercise effective supervision over the grant-in-aid institutions which, for want of such supervision, are often found to be doing really nothing.

24. Public Health.—Correct vital statistics are an unerring index of public health, but the arrangements now in force for the registration of vital statistics are very defective. Compulsory registration is provided for only in the case of Municipal towns, and the returns from rural areas leave considerable room for improvement. A Bill is now before the Legislative Council for making registration compulsory in these areas, and there is no doubt that the figures of births and deaths will show a better approximation to the accepted standards when that Bill passes into law. In regard to the prevention and cure of epidemic diseases, especially cholera, a new scheme has been recently sanctioned by Government, under which it is proposed to train six medical officers in the preventive and curative treatment of cholera, small-pox, typhoid, influenza, plague and other diseases which break out in an epidemic form and in recording and maintaining notes of interesting and valuable cases. The trained officers will, during ordinary times, be attached to hospitals in the more important towns, but on the outbreak of an epidemic, they will form themselves into a brigade and do intensive team work under proper supervision, with a view to eradicate the disease promptly and prevent its spread to other places. In view to improving the teaching of hygiene Higher Grade Vernacular Schools where it forms an optional branch of study, it is in contemplation to send batches of twenty teachers from the Training Schools for a course of training in hygiene in the Medical Department for a period of three months. It has also been resolved to educate the masses in the principles of health, personal hygiene and sanitation, by instituting branches of the Trivandrum Public Lecture Committee at taluk headquarters and by arranging for simple standardised lectures thereon in the vernaculars being read and illustrated by magic lantern slides under the auspices of those branches. The services of teachers will be largely utilised in this work.

25. Education.—Travancore is justly proud of her achievements in the domain of education. There is no other part of India which can boast of a higher percentage of literacy except perhaps the neighbouring State of Cochin. The benefits of this wide extension of education are reflected in the general advance of the people of the country in intelligence, in their capacity to profit by the changes around them, and in their desire to assume a large share of public and civic responsibilities. This remarkable spread of literacy in the country has, however, not been an unmixed blessing. The education imparted in the State has shared, in common with the rest of India, the general defect of being far too bookish and literary, and not sufficiently practical or vocational. The superficial extension of education has been so great and rapid that the quality of the material has necessarily suffered, and the problem that now faces the Government, as I dare say it does the public, is how to consolidate the gains of the past, while eschewing the evils that have followed in their wake, and above all, how to give a practical turn to the whole movement. It is common knowledge that the present lop-sided advancement of education in this country has only served to bring into existence a large body of young men who have become dissatisfied with their old environment and time-honoured pursuits and have developed a feeling of disappointment at the loss of their cherished hopes of getting Government employment. These young men have not the patience or the insight to see—little blame to them—that in the very nature of things it is impossible for Government to provide executive, ministerial, or clerical appointments for all of them. The question of imparting vocational instruction, so as to enable the generality of these youths to earn an honest and independent livelihood, is one of supreme importance to the State at the present juncture. Two Committees have sat over this question and the allied questions of educational curricula and finance and have submitted their recommendations, and Government hope to take up their reports for early consideration at a conference of educational experts and those interested in the problem, both official and

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non-official. The reports of the Committees have, in the meantime, been published in the *Gazette*, and your suggestions on their recommendations would be welcomed by Government. I do not think that I should take up the time of the Assembly with a discussion of the many important problems connected with collegiate education, secondary education, and the education of girls. I shall content myself with a passing reference to some of these problems. The Committee appointed by the Government for examining the question of a separate University for Travancore submitted a preliminary report, recommending the establishment of a University of the unitary type at the capital. The consideration of this subject, however, has been deferred pending the changes that are likely to be introduced in the Madras University in pursuance of the findings of the Calcutta University Commission. It is far too early to make a pronouncement as to the need of a separate University for the State or on the advantages of the possession of such a University. The question of the establishment of a Natural Science chair in the College will engage the early attention of Government. The annual conference of the Headmasters of English Schools, which was held with advantageous results during the years 1088 and 1089, is being revived. A special conference with experts in female education was recently held by me to discuss the revision of the courses of study in Girls' schools, and certain decisions have been arrived at which are calculated to strengthen the features that ought to distinguish female education from the education given to boys. It is here my pleasing duty to acknowledge the substantial co-operation which the Government have always been receiving from the people in the sphere of education. Without such co-operation it is impossible for Government to meet the growing and diverse needs of this important department. As a step in the direction of curtailing avoidable expenditure and utilising it to meet the more pressing needs of education, it is considered that costly educational buildings need not be provided in out-of-the-way places and cheap type designs for school buildings have accordingly been called for from the Chief Engineer.

EFFICIENCY OF ADMINISTRATION.

26. Salaries.—That a State can get on with the same governmental machinery even though its work may be steadily increasing is one of those fallacious notions commonly held by the people. Under the same category comes the belief that salaries once fixed need no enhancement thereafter. With the expansion of activities all round, and with the development of representative institutions, the work of Government must necessarily increase, and their functions become more complicated, onerous and varied. This renders the strengthening of existing departments and the creation of new ones unavoidable and it is inevitable that when the cost of living rises and increasing complexity of work demands a higher standard of qualifications in the men engaged to do it, the wages paid must correspondingly increase. The all-round demand for increased salaries on account of a rise in the cost of living has become specially insistent since the date of the substantial reforms effected in this direction in British India and in several Indian States. In the case of the low-paid officials, like clerks and schoolmasters, and of menial servants, it is literally true to say that the problem is one of life and death, while in the case of the higher ranks of the services also, the problem is hardly less serious, involving as it does the enforced curtailment of the usual amenities of life and the lowering of the usual standards of comfort and convenience. It is perhaps not so widely known as it should be that the services in Travancore are none too extravagantly paid. I certainly recognise that conditions of service cannot be quite parallel in British India and Travancore, or in Travancore and other Indian States; but any undue and disproportionate disparity between the rates of remuneration obtaining here and elsewhere is bound to have an undesirable reaction on the quality and quantity of the work turned out by our services, besides rendering future recruitment to them difficult and unsatisfactory. It is, in this connection, also worthy of remembrance that public servants with fixed salaries are not in a position to take automatic advantage of a rise in the wage-market, and it therefore becomes the duty of the Government to make such adjustments in the scales of their remuneration from time to time as are calculated to ensure contentment. Government have already, in view of the pressing urgency of the matter, afforded a certain amount of relief to their

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